

better, or give a better testimony, no it is not envious. Then again with this pure love in our hearts we are not *puffed up*, did you ever see a large toad all puffed up? Well that is much like one that thinks he is a little smarter than any one else, got the big head as we say some times. Then again love seeketh not her own.

Oh! how many there are in the world that care for no one, only so as they may prosper and lay up riches for themselves. But the law of perfect love is that we should have a thought for the welfare of others, seek their comfort and salvation. Then too, love is not provoked. Yes, if we are in possession of this perfect love, we are not getting angry, red in the face and talking back when a provocation comes, but we keep sweet, and use kind words.

"Thinketh no evil." Why how prone many professed Christians are, not only to *think* evil of some one, but to *talk* evil. Yes, some will think evil about some one, then they will canvass the whole country to see if they can't prove their thoughts so. Oh yes! Pure love never fails. All else shall fail. But the love that cometh from the Father and takes possession of our hearts, will lift us up to him and we shall finally be ever with the Lord.

SALVATION—NO. 4.—THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.

S. W. WILT.

"My soul shall rejoice in his salvation." Psalm 35:9.

"Salvation! O, the joyful sound!
'Tis pleasure to our ears,
A sov'reign balm for ev'ry wound,
A cordial for our fears."

As promised in our last communication, a plurality of conditions do exist relative to the salvation which is, or ought to be the one great aim or object of our lives. In fact there can be no salvation without conditions. Many writers use, "Means of grace," as their mode of expression, referring to all those things which God employs to present divine truth to the minds of the children of men.

Three general methods are used in the book of God to present the conditions that the writer has in view. 1. Religious truth as it is written. 2. Divine or religious truth as set forth in symbols. 3. Divine or religious truth delivered orally.

1. Religious truth written. Regarding the facts as to doctrines and precepts concerning salvation, our only appeal for the positive must be to the holy volume. In it we have character clearly declared. It is positively affirmed, "that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." "In the Scriptures ye have eternal life."

(Doctrines.) In these affirmations Paul hoped, hence his exclamation to his Roman brethren, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power, (or instrument) of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." In the foregoing scriptural references we observe conditions, that become positive duty under certain desires. Many other portions of the word might be cited, but we forbear at present. How obvious it is that we should read and study the sacred volume.

2. Truth as set forth by and under symbols, such as baptism, feet-washing and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is looked upon by many as the initiatory rite into the visible organic body of the church of Christ. But in connection with the foregoing it is also an impressive symbol of the truth of human depravity, and of the purifying, renovating influences of the Holy Spirit working in unison with other prescribed conditions of the plan of salvation. Is administered for the remission of, or saving from sins. Feet-washing has its design, has a spiritual office, is found among prescribed conditions, and is a beautiful symbol of celestial love as exhibited by our Savior. But when engaged in by the Lord's children it inculcates humility, and is a symbol of cleansing as well as a test of Christian fidelity. It is a beautiful symbol of the entire work and mission of our adorable Savior, from the time that he left the courts and the society of the heavenly world, came into this world, remained here and accomplished the work the Father gave him to do, even up to the time that he resumed his vacated seat in the heavenly world. The Lord's Supper—a symbol setting forth the effecting facts and statements relative to the atoning death of our Lord and Savior typical and commemorative.

3. Divine or religious truth delivered orally. To this belongs the preached word in the public assembly, the conversations and exhortations of the godly, the godly instructions of parents to their children. Prayer to a degree partakes of the same nature, as it consists of adoration, confession, and petitions. By taking a proper view of all the exhibitions of truth, we observe the conditions of salvation have an intimate connection. There is a special adaptation all along the line of truth as we note specific statements. It is incontrovertably true, from both God's nature and character that he selects means, and forms conditions that are best adapted to accomplish the purposes in view. If we turn to the sacred word and take it as the man of our council, and as the rule of our faith and practice, we infallibly find ourselves, "growing wise un-

to salvation, or realize the power of God unto salvation." The conditions have a relative tendency in the end desired to be accomplished, but of themselves are not wholly sufficient. The influences of the Holy Spirit in connection with the virtues of the atonement, are also required. I Cor. 5:6. I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7th verse. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase.

There is a tendency with some to forget the insufficiency of the conditions of grace in their outward relation, and to exalt them to such a degree as to almost ignore the office or work of the Holy Spirit, and so reduce conversion, to a mere mechanical operation. The right course to pursue is to use the conditions of grace, as laid down in the word, for the purpose for which they are instituted; because they are divinely appointed, and have God's blessing promised with their use. The entire teaching of the word of God should be received and reduced with child-like simplicity to practice,—we upon our part complying with all the conditions of grace leaving the rest to God to whom it belongs, and all will be well.

Toll Gate, W. Va.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY AND THE RESULT.

S. KEIHL.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. Wealth and riches shall be in his house. Ps. 112:1, 3. If riches increase, set not your heart upon them. Ps. 62:10.

There was a certain man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day; and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment. Luke 16:19-23. "A word to the wise is sufficient." The Lord help us lay up treasures in heaven.

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Let us take time to get acquainted with our families. The wealth that you are accumulating, burdened father, may be a doubtful blessing to the son who is a stranger to you. Your beautifully kept house, busy mother, can never be a home to the daughter whom you have no time to caress.